

the merit system, clarified the commission's role in other areas of personnel administration, and gave staff associations the right to be consulted on remuneration and conditions of employment.

The Public Service Employment Act (RSC 1970, c.P-32) which came into force in March 1967, redefined the commission's role as the central staffing agency and extended its authority to cover certain groups of employees exempt from the previous acts. The public service is specified in the Public Service Staff Relations Act. It does not include Crown corporations, such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corp., Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., Canadian National Railways and Air Canada. The new act reaffirmed the merit principle, and permitted delegation of the commission's authority, although not its responsibility to Parliament. Under the act, the commission was relieved of responsibility for recommending rates of pay and conditions of service to the government, for classification, and for consultation with staff associations on matters that are now the subject of collective bargaining.

By orders-in-council of 1972 and 1976, the commission was assigned the duty of investigating cases of alleged discrimination on grounds of sex, race, national origin, colour or religion with respect to the application and operation of the Public Service Employment Act; the appeals and investigation branch is responsible for this function.

The Public Service Commission reports directly to Parliament. The secretary of state has traditionally been the minister who presents the commission's report to the House of Commons, and answers parliamentary questions on the commission's behalf.

**Public Service Staff Relations Board.** The Public Service Staff Relations Board is an independent body responsible for administration of the Public Service Staff Relations Act (RSC 1970, c.P-35, as amended by SC 1972, c.18, SC 1973-74, c.15 and SC 1974-75-76, c.67), which established a system of collective bargaining for the public service. Responsibilities include determination of bargaining units, certification and decertification of bargaining agents, arbitration of interest disputes, and adjudication of rights disputes under collective agreements.

The board consists of a chairman, vice-chairman, not less than three deputy chairmen and other full-time members and part-time members as the Governor-in-Council considers necessary. All full-time appointments are not to exceed seven years except for the chairmen whose appointments are not to exceed 10 years. Part-time members are appointed to adjudicate grievances or render arbitral awards. The board reports to Parliament through a designated minister, at present the president of the Privy Council.

A pay research bureau, administered by the board, conducts surveys on rates of pay, employee earnings, conditions of employment and related practices both inside and outside the public service, relative to collective bargaining. Advice on planning survey activities is given by an advisory committee on pay research, composed of representatives of employers and bargaining agents.

**Public Works, Department of** (Public Works Canada). This department was constituted in 1867 and operates under the legislative authority of the Public Works Act (RSC 1970, c.P-38, as amended). It is the primary agent of the federal government in the development and management of real property, providing office accommodation for some 90 federal departments and agencies, together with architectural, engineering, construction management and realty services for special purpose facilities. The department also has responsibilities in transportation (roads) and marine (dredging) works. It is decentralized, with regional headquarters at Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Edmonton and Vancouver, and subsidiary offices in all but the national capital region. Main line functions are design and construction, realty planning and development and realty services plus departmental planning and co-ordination (including policy research); in addition, the dominion fire commissioner operates under the authority of the minister of public works, with responsibility for protection of life of occupants of government property and for the minimization of property loss as a result of fire.

**Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Research Fund.** The Queen Elizabeth II Canadian Research Fund Act (SC 1959, c.33) established a fund of \$1 million to be administered by a board of trustees to aid in research on children's diseases. The prime minister reports to Parliament on operations of this fund.

**Regional Development Incentives Board.** This board was established under the Regional Development Incentives Act 1968-69 (RSC 1970, c.R-3). It provides advice to the minister of regional economic expansion on matters respecting the administration of the act, particularly on applications for incentives relating to projects over a specified size or involving loan guarantees or sensitive industries. The board meets monthly and consists of representatives of various federal departments and agencies including environment, finance, the foreign investment review agency, employment and immigration, and industry, trade and commerce.

**Regional Economic Expansion, Department of.** This department was established in 1969 (RSC 1970, c.R-4). Its objective is to combat regional disparities by fostering economic and social development in slow-growth regions of Canada. DREE's present activities are divided into three major areas: general development agreements, industrial incentives and other programs.